

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 01324 211945Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4487

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

UNCLAS KINGSTON 1324

SANTO DOMINGO FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ECON, JM

SUBJECT: JAMAICAN SUGAR INDUSTRY HARD HIT BY DROUGHT

1. PROLONGED DROUGHT CONDITIONS THROUGHOUT JAMAICA SINCE LAST YEAR AND CONTINUING INTO THIS YEAR HAVE CAUSED AN ESTIMATED FALL IN PRODUCTION OF SUGAR FOR THE CURRENT CROP OF 40,000 LONG TONS. BASED ON THE CURRENT PRICE OF J\$270 A TON PAYABLE TO LOCAL MANUFACTURERS, THE SUGAR INDUSTRY AUTHORITY WILL BE LOSING SOME J\$10.8 MILLION.

2. THE DIRECTOR OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, MR. MIKE SHAW, HAS STATED THAT THE DROUGHT HAS HAD WIDE-SPREAD EFFECTS ON SUGAR CANE FARMS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, BUT THE HARDEST HIT ARE THOSE IN THE CLARENDON AND ST. CATHERINE PLAINS. IN THESE AREAS SOME FIELDS HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY BURNT OUT AND IN OTHERS ONLY SPARSELY POPULATED CANEROOTS ARE VISIBLE. LATEST ESTIMATE IS THAT THE 1977 SUGAR CROP WILL AMOUNT TO 320,574 LONG TONS COMPARED TO THE 1976 OUTPUT OF 360,574 TONS. UP TO THE BEGINNING OF THIS MONTH, PRODUCTION WAS 1,000 TONS BELOW THAT OF LAST YEAR'S DESPITE THE MILLING OF MORE CANE. THIS WAS DUE TO LOW SUCROSE CONTENT AT

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THE BEGINNING OF THE CROP.

3. THE WATER PROBLEM HAS FORCED THE SIA TO SET UP A WATER USE STUDY IN THE INDUSTRY AND WORKERS ARE TO BE INSTRUCTED IN THE CONSERVATION OF IRRIGATION WATER ON CANE FARMS.

4. THE BLEAK OUTLOOK ON PRODUCTION FOR 1977 IS
EXPECTED TO CARRY OVER INTO NEXT YEAR BECAUSE OF THE
DROUGHT AND THE DISCOVERY OF THE SMUT DISEASE ON SOME
100 CANE FARMS. THERE HAS BEEN A SHORTAGE OF AMMONIUM
SULPHATE FERTILIZER.
GERARD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KINGST01324
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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